

[24 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

the action against the officials responsible for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State Government has also been requested to submit para-wise comments in respect of various issues raised in the representation of Shri V. Jayashankar, on 01.11.2006.

**Fast track clearance for forest submersion and destruction by irrigation projects**

320. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Supreme Court Empowered Committee on Environment to give fast-track clearances for forest submersion and destruction by various Irrigation Projects;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Empowered Committee on Environment to agree for Fast-Track Forest clearance; and

(c) how many proposals the Supreme Court Empowered Committee has cleared for fast-track approvals alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Forest and environmental clearance on instalment basis**

321. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various State Governments are seeking forest and environmental clearances for dams on an instalment-basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that projects are being divided into separate entities, so as, to pose applications for destruction of forest on a smaller scale;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have agreed to such break-up of composite proposals for fast-track forest clearance; and

(d) the steps proposed to avoid giving permission in instalments for dams and major industries?